COMO
LAKEXPERIENCE

map and itineraries in Como

MAP LEGEND

- Boats and ferries
- Cable car Como-Brunate
- Hangar
- Trains
- Buses
- Beaches/Swimming pools
- Tourist information
- Parks and gardens
- Police
- Hospital
- Taxi
- Luggage drop-off
- Bike sharing
- Parkings
- Caravan parks
- WiFi
- Markets
- Limited traffic zones

TOURIST INFORMATION

Info point Duomo/Broletto
via Pretorio / piazza Duomo
+ 39 031.304137

Info point Stazione San Giovanni
piazzale San Gottardo, railway station
** check opening hours on our website www.visitcomo.eu*

PARKINGS

Parking garage
Autosilo Centro lago,
via Sant'Elia - via Recchi
Autosilo Comunale, via Auguadri 1
(bicycles available for rental)
Autosilo Jasca, piazza Volta 41A
Autosilo Quarto Ponte, viale Innocenzo
Autosilo Università, via Castelnuovo
Autosilo Val Mulini, via dei Mulini
Autosilo Valduce, viale Lecco

Parking
Novosilo, via Sirtori 92
Area Ippocastano, via A. Moro
Stazione San Giovanni, via Venini
Arena, via V. Bellini 21
Pulesin, via Bellinzona
Tavernola, via Cernobbio

Caravan park
Area Ippocastano, via A. Moro - 4 places
Tavernola, via Brennero - 10 places

Camping
Camping International, via Cecilio
+39 031 521 435 - +39 335 220508
campingint@hotmail.com
www.camping-internazionale.it

TRANSPORTATION

Trains
Railway station Como San Giovanni
luggage drop-off 24/7
Connections with Milano Centrale, Milano Porta Garibaldi, Lecco and Switzerland
Railway station Como Nord Lago
Line Como-Milano Cadorna
Line Como-Saronno-Malpensa
www.muoversi.regione.lombardia.it
www.trenitalia.com
www.trenord.it

Cable car Como-Brunate ATM
piazza de Gasperi
it takes 7 minutes
+39 031 303 608
www.funicolarecomo.it

Navigazione Lago di Como
Boats:
Lungo Lario Trento / piazza Cavour
It's possibile to buy all day tickets and enjoy itineraries and cruises around the lake. +39 031 579211
www.navigazionelaghi.it

Buses
Bus station, piazza Matteotti
All lines:
ASF Autolinee - +39 031 247 249
www.asfautolinee.it
Download Arriva ASF app

Bike sharing
Bike&CO - toll-free number 800 032 330
info@bicincitta.com
www.bicincitta.co

Taxi
Radio Taxi Como - +39 031261515
Radio Taxi Lario 2000 - +39 031272000
Radio Taxi - toll-free number 800 012 380

HIGHWAY EXITS A9
Tangenziale di Como, Como Centro, Monte Olimpino, Lago di Como

EU EMERGENCY 112

POST OFFICE
via Gallio 6 - +39 031 276 3025
www.poste.it

City Hall
via Vittorio Emanuele II, 97
www.comune.como.it

Shopping
shopincomo.comune.como.it
Download ShopInComo app

www.visitcomo.eu

Image: Comune di Como - Aero Club Como
Graphics and texts by Communication office Comune di Como

- ROMAN COMO
- FROM MEDIEVAL TO NEOCLASSICAL AGES
- WALK ALONG THE SHORE OF COMO VILLAS
- VOLTA'S HERITAGE
- RISORGIMENTO COMO
- RATIONALISM
- COMO CITY OF SILK
- LAKE COMO BY BOAT
- CASTEL BARADELLO
- SPINA VERDE
- BRUNATE
- CERNOBBIO

MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS
Museo Archeologico (archeological)
Museo Storico (historical)
piazza Medaglie d'Oro 1
+39 031 252550

Pinacoteca Civica (art gallery)
via Diaz 84
+39 031 269869

Tempio Voltiano (Volta temple)
viale Marconi
+39 031 574705

Villa Olmo
via Cantoni 1
+39 031 576169

Tuesday to Sunday
** check opening hours on our website www.visitcomo.eu*

BIBLIOTECA (LIBRARY)
piazzetta Venosto Lucati 1
+39 031 252 850
** check opening hours on our website www.visitcomo.eu*

MUSEUMS
Museo didattico della Seta (*silk*)
via Castelnuovo 9
+39 031 303180

Mu.R.A.C. - Museo rifugi antiarei
via Italia Libera 11
+39 031 243289
guided tours by reservation only

Museo del cavallo giocattolo
via Tornese 10 - Grandate (CO)
+39 031 382 038
** check opening hours on our website www.visitcomo.eu*

BY RESERVATION ONLY
F.A.R. - Museo Studio del Tessuto
Villa Sucota
via per Cernobbio 19
+39 031 3384976

Museo don Luigi Guanella
via Tommaso Grossi 18
+39 031 296894 - +39 333 3598816

Porta di Como romana
largo Miglio
+39 031 252550

Museo delle scienze Casartelli
viale Cavallotti 7
+39 031 267365

Museo di Scienze e Museo di Fisica del Liceo Alessandro Volta
via Cesare Cantù 57
+39 031 261498 – +39 031 2759100

Tempio sacrario degli sport nautici
via per Brunate 39
+39 031 3100008

** check opening hours on our website www.visitcomo.eu*

DUOMO (CATHEDRAL)
tourists
*weekdays 10.30am-5pm**
weekends and holidays 1pm-4.30pm

LIFE ELECTRIC

"Life Electric is inspired by the idea of the electrical voltage between two poles of a battery, the great gift that Volta gave to humanity. Pivotal to the form of the installation has been my constant search to represent energy architecturally. The work brings together light, wind and water. The installation takes both a physical and an ideal perspective on the twenty-first century". Daniel Libeskind

Life Electric is a monument that honours the memory of Alessandro Volta. It stands in the middle of the first branch of Lake Como, located on a stretch of breakwater in front of Piazza Cavour. The work is that of archistar Daniel Libeskind and has clean lines that sit well with its environs. Over 16 metres in height, it has two sinusoidal shapes that are counterpoised one to the other and relate to each other in a play of curves and movement. The work combines energetic and scientific elements with natural aspects. It creates an idealised third pole between the Brunate Faro Voltiano (lighthouse) and Tempio Voltiano (Volta Temple), both of which monuments are not surprisingly dedicated to Volta himself.

LAKE COMO BY BOAT

Making use of the regular service offered by Navigazione Lago di Como steamboat company, you can sail around the first branch of the lake starting from Como, with stop offs, if you wish, at Cernobbio, Moltrasio, Torno and Blevio.

The boat trip is a romantic and tranquil experience that gives visitors the opportunity to admire villages and landscapes from another perspective and view villas barely visible from road level.

Worthy of particular note at Cernobbio are Villa Erba, an architectural gem built at the end of the nineteenth century and today important as an exhibition centre, Villa d'Este, long ago the residence of Cardinal Tolomeo Gallio, now an elegant luxury hotel of world renown, and Villa Pizzo with its beautiful gardens.

At Moltrasio, on the other hand, Villa Fontanelle, years ago the residence of the Versace family and Villa Passalacqua, a neoclassical building with a beautiful Italian style garden. The village of Torno, with its picturesque harbour can also be seen from the water as can the sequence of elegant villas at Blevio, among them Villa Troubetzkoy, in Russian style. It is possible to travel around the whole Lake Como by boat.

excursion

CASTEL BARADELLO

Starting from Piazza San Rocco or from Piazzale Camerlata, you can walk to the foot of Castel Baradello, rebuilt in the twelfth century by Frederick I, better known as Barbarossa. He had it built on the remains of an ancient sixth century fort. Under the rule of Azzone Visconti, the 19.5 metre high tower was raised by a further 8 metres in the fourteenth century. The castle has become the symbol of the city itself over the intervening centuries.

If you continue on to Respaù you will find there a splendid vantage point followed by the area of the archaeological excavations of Pianvalle. This area was that of the settlement of Comum Oppidum, an important centre inhabited by the Celts of the Golasecca culture of the Iron Age.

The settlement came to light during a series of digs which began in 1976, with many of the archaeological finds now exhibited in the Pre-Protohistoric Archaeological Museum section.

The walk can proceed on to the hill of Sant'Eutichio where there is a large iron cross and wonderful views of the city and the whole first branch of the lake.

excursion

SPINA VERDE

Spina Verde Regional Park stretches along the hillcrests northwest of Como. It is an area with many interesting features, including the natural landscape itself, archaeological and historical sites, as well as many places of worship that include the Basilica of San Carpoforo, the church of San Rocco in Cavallasca and the cross of Sant'Eutichio. These are all indicative of how this has become a hub of religious culture.

Spina Verde is criss-crossed by many trails. Thirteen of these were set up by the Park authority and provide many different kinds of routes. These may be natural, scenic, sporting, historical or religious, while some also take in the archaeological ruins of the proto-historic Como and the medieval Castel Baradello. There is also military history to explore at the First World War trenches that have recently been opened up to the public.

We recommend one of the easiest, trail number 4, the 45-minute Monte Caprino route that starts from the Basilica of Sant'Abbondio and number 2, which is a 3-hour walk from Monte Olimpino cemetery.

More information www.spinaverde.it

excursion

BRUNATE

The funicular railway station, opened in 1894, is in piazza De Gasperi. In just a few minutes it takes you up to Brunate, known as the "balcony" of the Alps on account of its strategic location and breath-taking views from several different aspects.

The hill is home to splendid Art Nouveau villas built from the end of the nineteenth into the early years of the twentieth century by the new wealthy middle classes seeking to make names for themselves. Floral motifs and eclectic elements typify the taste of the owners in an era marked by luxury.

You can get to San Maurizio, on foot or by shuttle service, where the Volta Lighthouse is located. It was built in 1927 by engineer Gabriele Giussani as part of celebrations on the centenary of the death of Alessandro Volta. The 143-step spiral staircase within winds up to the top terrace. There are two paths back to Como, one runs alongside the cable car and the other passes by the Hermitage of San Donato, founded by the Benedictines in the fifteenth century.

excursion

CERNOBBIO

Cernobbio is a renowned tourist resort on the shores of the lake at the foot of Monte Bisbino. Along its banks there are some villas of rare beauty, including Villa d'Este and Villa Erba, which is now an exhibition centre, Villa Bernasconi and Villa Pizzo.

It is reachable by boat or by taking a pleasant walk of around forty minutes: from the grounds of Villa Olmo, along the Kilometre of Knowledge, a green and cultural corridor of great natural beauty set in a unique landscape. The kilometre links the old parklands of the exceptionally beautiful historic mansions that overlook the lake, namely Villa Olmo, Villa del Grumello, and Villa Sucota. After the Kilometre of Knowledge the walk or cycle ride continues along the first limb of the eastern slopes of the lake.

From Cernobbio you can proceed to the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin on the summit of Monte Bisbino, taking a scenic route that offers breath-taking views of the lake.

excursion

COMO

"In recent years, the city of Como, on the lake's southwestern tip, has quietly blossomed into the most interesting spot for visitors of all bank account sizes. A raft of openings has infused new life there, transforming the oft-overlooked transit hub into the lake's new place to be seen."- The New York Times - August 2014.

Como is famous as one of the most desirable of tourist destinations thanks to its enviable geographical position on the shores of the lake, framed by the embrace of the hills. The panorama it provides has proven a powerful inspiration to scientists such as Alessandro Volta, thinkers like Cesare Beccaria, musicians of the ilk of Liszt, Rossini, Bellini, Verdi and Wagner and writers of the calibre of Manzoni, Fogazzaro, Stendhal, Flaubert and Foscolo.

Como is a historic city, the first traces of which can still be seen in the Spina Verde parkland, dating back to the Bronze Age. The city on the lakeside itself was established by Julius Caesar in 59 BC and called Novum Comum, from which its modern name derives.

Como is a city of sport, with a tradition of success in fencing, rowing, football, basketball and water polo. The city is also home to tennis, rugby, ice skating, ice hockey, golf and sailing. The Cycling Tour of Lombardy comes to the town which also sees powerboat racing and is home to the famous Como Aero Club. The first Cruyff Court in Italy was made here in 2014 and bears the name of the Stefano Borgonovo foundation.

Como has been the city of silk for many centuries, famed for its production of fine fabrics that have gone all over the world and remains a reference point for all major fashion houses and clothing manufacturers. The importance of the industry is marked by the presence of the Silk Museum and the work of the Ratti Foundation

Alessandro Volta, the inventor of the battery and discoverer of natural gas as energy source, was born here. Artefacts and records relating to his life are kept in the Temple dedicated to him. A lighthouse bearing his name watches over the city from above, entering into a dialogue with the new monument by Daniel Libeskind, "Life Electric" on the breakwater.

Como is an academic centre and home to Insubria University and the Como branch of the Politecnico di Milano. Students flock to these centres of learning from all over the world.

Open air shopping is a popular pursuit in the old streets of historic Como, where there is an extensive pedestrianised area with many quality shops, an abundance of places providing food and wine and a variety of kinds of accommodation.

Como is a city of art. The old town features elements from its Roman and medieval past, as well as religious buildings and palaces, and a lavish array of luxury houses along the banks of the lake. The ancient city centre also offers a winding pathway of rationalist buildings that leave their modern stamp on the city of Como.

Como is a city of culture and music with events all year round, such as Miniartextil, exhibitions at Villa Olmo, the Como City of Music Festival, the Lake Como Film Festival and the broad review that is Como Live, which brings a buzz to city in the summer months. There is also Parolario, the reading and cultural event, the drama season at the Teatro Sociale, music from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory and the Università Popolare di Musica, ComON the European creativity hub, the Orticolario garden show, the Festival of Light, the Poetry Festival, the Festival of Land & Water, the re-enactment of the Palio of Baradello and the celebrations for the patron saint Sant'Abbondio. At Christmas time, the Città dei Balocchi enlivens the centre with many activities, coupled with the illuminations involving all the main monuments.

Como is a city of Peace and was awarded the title of Messenger of Peace City by the United Nations in 1987, while the Monument to the European Resistance is a representative work for this vocation it profoundly feels.

In Como you can enjoy truly unforgettable moments. It is an enchanting town and favoured destination for many travellers, intellectuals, royalty and aristocrats over the years. Even today, businessmen, actors and celebrities, athletes, students and tourists all are drawn to and seduced by the Como lake-experience!

LOCAL DISHES AND FOOD TRADITIONS

Food traditions in Como offer local products, both from the lake and the mountains. The most famous dish is polenta, either yellow wheat or buckwheat, served with meat, fish or cheese.

Lake Como's traditional fish is misultitt (dried fish), bleak, *lavarello*, perch (often served with risotto), salmon trout, pike and chub.

In what cheese concerns, Lake Como offers *semuda, zincarlin* and *triangolo del Lario.* Also, Como produces good butter and milk, cod cuts, honey (acacia, chestnut, lime tree).

Also, we can find olive oil Dop Laghi Lombardi-Lario and wine Consortium Igt Terre Lariane that produces white and red wine.

Among sweets, typical are *miascia, braschin, nocciolini di Canzo, pan mataloch, masigott, resta, pan meino, cutizza, and tortelli di San Giuseppe.*

SHOPPING AND MARKETS

Como hosts various markets: the two main ones are included in the list of historical markets in Lombardy and are situated along town walls and in the covered market. "Mercato Mercerie", along town walls in Viale Battisti and Viale Varese, is open Tuesday morning, Thursday morning and Saturday all day. "Mercato Annonario", or "Mercato Coperto" (covered market), is situated in Via Mentana 5 and it's open Monday to Saturday. Here you can find shops and local producers.

"Mercato dell'Antiquariato" (antique) is located in Piazza San Fedele and open first Saturday of each month, while "Mercato dell' Artigianato" (handicraft) is open the second, third and fourth Saturday of each month.

Yearly events are "Fiera di Pasqua" (Easter market), in Viale Varese, open Holy Thursday to Easter Monday; "Fiera del Libro" (book fair) in Piazza Cavour, "Fiera di Sant'Abbondio", on the occasion of Sant'Abbondio patron saint's festival on August 31 with traditional food and animal fair.

RELAX AND SPORTS OUTSIDE

Como and its territory offer many possibilities to spend some time outside, relaxing by the lake or in the mountains as the one of Triangolo Lariano. Experts can try the "Alta Via dei Monti Lariani" which runs from Cernobbio to Sorico, on the west side of Lake Como. Also, the territory offers many itineraries for bikers.

You can also swim in the lake and relax on the beach next to Villa Olmo which offers two swimming pools (one for children), a café, a garden, beach umbrellas and loungers. On the other side of the lake, close to Villa Geno, you can find a beach, a garden to sunbathe, and a swimming pool for children. To swim indoor, Sinigaglia swimming pool offers a wellness area with sauna and Turkish bath. You can also go for a run by the lake where you can find many possibilities to train.

AERO CLUB COMO

Como is famous for its seaplanes. In 1913, less than three years after the first seaplane recorded flight, one of the first conferences within the international "Lakes Grand Prix" won by Roland Garros was held in Como.

Among historical seaplane places, Como is the only one which is still active. Activities are managed by Aero Club Como, one of the most important seaplane organizations, and the oldest one worldwide, as proven by Guinness World Records™.

Seeplanes don't disturb the natural life of Lake Como.

In front of Aero Club Como hangar, therefore, you can see many birds, as mallards, coots and swans, which swim and relax in the lake.

ROMAN COMO

The modern city, with its grid-iron road layout, reflects the ground plan of the settlement the Roman Novum Comum grew out of. The main east-west axis of the Decumanus road corresponds to the current Via Independenza and the Cardo maximus to Via Cesare Cantù.

Starting from the Porta Torre gate, in largo Miglio, within a nineteenth century building on the right, is Porta di Como Romana (Como's original Roman Gate). This was the main Milan access point and headed north, across the lake or along Via Regina. The archaeological remains of the gate were discovered in 1914 and recently became part of the new museum itinerary.

Continuing along Via Cesare Cantù, eight marble columns come into view as used for the neoclassical façade of Liceo Classico Volta (High School). These were from the paleo-Christian baptistery of San Giovanni in Atrio, where they had in fact already been reused from an unknown monument of the Roman age.

Turning right in Via Giovio we enter Piazza Medaglie d'Oro which is home to the Museo Archeologico Paolo Giovio (Archaeological Museum) which houses exhibits from the local area from the Palaeolithic era to the late Roman period. The Roman world itself is illustrated by the finds discovered in and around the city as well as with models and graphic reconstructions. Architectural marbles testify to the sophistication that must have characterised the city in the early centuries after Christ.

Turning right into Via Perti after proceeding along Via Vittorio Emanuele II, the visitor can go to see the Terme (Roman Baths) of Viale Lecco. Their remains are in a recently built multi-storey car park and are open to public view. They were built in the second half of the first century AD and are an indication of the importance of the city at that historical moment. They expanded in the second century AD and fell into disuse in late antiquity, while the area outside the walls came to be occupied by a necropolis.

The visit ends with a walk down Via Indipendenza, the Decumanus, to Piazza San Fedele, which was most likely the site of the ancient Roman Forum.

roman como

Detail "Rilievo dei Cavalieri" Musso marble, II century AC.

FROM MEDIEVAL TO NEOCLASSICAL AGES

In Piazza Vittoria there is a fine view of the remains of the medieval walls with the three towers. Entering the walled city, you can visit the church of Santa Cecilia with its stucco decorations and baroque paintings. At the intersection with Via Giovio, turning left you reach the Pinacoteca (art gallery) where there is a section devoted to the Middle Age, with sculptures from the churches of Sant'Abbondio and San Fedele and frescoes from the church of San Giorgio in Borgovico. Moreover, there is the Renaissance section (portraits of Paolo Giovio, stained glass, sculptures, paintings from the Cathedral site) and the painting gallery. From Via Rovelli and Via Cesare Cantù you reach Piazza San Fedele, with the buildings of the sixteenth century, with their wood and herringbone bricks and the Basilica of San Fedele (twelfth century). On the side of the Basilica facing Via Vittorio Emanuele II, the view is caught by the beautiful portal flanked by romanesque relief sculpture. From here you can go on to Piazza del Duomo, overlooked by the Torre Civica (the Broletto) and the Cathedral.

The Duomo was built on the site of the previous Santa Maria Maggiore cathedral and has a longitudinal fifteenth-century structure which engages with the centric ground plan of the centric tribune built between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Above these the dome designed by Filippo Juvarra in the eighteenth century. The sculptures are largely by Tommaso Rodari and his workshop. Among the masterpieces are the wooden altar of Sant'Abbondio, the wooden group of the Crucifixion by sculptor Giovan Angelo Del Maino and paintings by Bernardino Luini and Gaudenzio Ferrari. Not far from the Cathedral is the church of San Giacomo, Torre Pantera, Via Rodari and Teatro Sociale which was built on the site of Castello della Torre Rotonda (round-towered castle).

The chiesa del Crocifisso (Sanctuary of the Holy Cross), in Viale Varese is well worth a visit. The church has been worked and reworked from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century.

The route must not end without a visit to the romanesque Basilica of Sant'Abbondio, with its twin bell towers, in which there are splendid fourteenth-century frescoes. In full romanesque style is the Basilica of San Carpoforo situated close to Piazza Camerlata.

from medieval to neoclassical ages

Duomo

WALK ALONG THE SHORE OF COMO VILLAS

With an evocative walk along the west shore of lake Como you can admire many neoclassical villas built between the eighteenth and the nineteenth century. In 1959, the local government created a "romantic promenade" offering citizens and tourists a wonderful itinerary rich of beautiful sights and elegant buildings.

Villa Carminati, designed in 1787 by architect Felice Soave, is a small and elegant villa with double open gallery and decorated with statues and little angels.

Villa Saporiti, now headquarters of the Provincial Administration, also known as "la Rotonda" for its shape, was built on the project of Leopoldo Pollack and decorated with various sea deities.

Villa Gallia, also property of Como's Provincial Administration, was built in 1614 by abbot Marco Gallio in the place where Museo Gioviano (XVI century) was situated. The museum was erected by Paolo Giovio to host his personal collection of paintings, the one of Uomini Illustri (Illustrious Men), now at Pinacoteca Civica. The building is simple and characterised by a portico with three arches.

All villas are surrounded by lush gardens. Further, Villa Parravicini Revel is well recognizable thanks to its neoclassical and majestic structure, with Italian garden, while Villa Volonté has two symmetrical wings, with frontons decorated with bas-relieves and statues, and connected through a veranda.

At the end of the walk stands the famous neoclassical Villa Olmo, architect Simone Cantoni's masterpiece, and erected by marquis Innocenzo Odescalchi. Villa Olmo was first property of the Raimondi family and later the Visconti di Modrone family that transformed and enriched it before donating it to the Municipality of Como in 1924. Villa Olmo, with its beautiful Italian garden in front and its English garden in the back, is now home to crowd-pulling art exhibitions.

The habit of Lake Como villas dates back to Romans and it is strictly linked with the history of tourism around the lake.

walk along the shore of como villas

Villa Olmo

VOLTA'S HERITAGE

The route starts from Tempio Voltiano (Volta Temple). This is a neoclassical style structure, donated to the city by Francesco Somaini to the design of architect Federico Frigerio, and opened in 1928. It was intended to be the new venue to host the original scientific instruments of Volta, as well as reconstruction exhibits for those that the fire of 1899 destroyed during the Great Volta Exhibition. This was staged in Como on the centenary of the invention of the first battery. The ground floor displays much precious equipment, machines and tools of Volta's lifetime. The upper loggia introduces the visitor to Volta the person, the citizen of Como, his family and his ties with the city, the public offices he held and the honours that were bestowed upon him.

In the town center there is Piazza Volta named after the monument to the scientist, opened in 1838 and designed by Pompeo Marchesi.

Volta was baptised in the church of San Donnino, in Via Diaz, where a plaque commemorates the event and it was in the same church that the physicist's funeral was held.

Via Volta 62 is the house where Volta was born on February 18, 1745 and in which he died on March 5, 1827. The house had been purchased in 1536 by Zanino Volta and then owned by Carlo Pizzala in 1862, who had it restored to give it the appearance it has today.

Not far away is Torre Gattoni (Gattoni tower) which was acquired in late eighteenth century by Canon Giulio Cesare Gattoni. He set up a physics lab here in 1783 where Alessandro Volta often went to study and carry out experiments.

Opposite Porta Torre in Via Cesare Cantù is Liceo Classico Alessandro Volta. It used to be the location of the Real Ginnasium school of Como, where Volta taught from 1774 to 1778. In 1865 the school was named after him.

The itinerary can take in a visit to the Faro Voltiano (lighthouse) in Brunate, built in 1927 on the occasion of the celebrations for the centenary of the death of Alessandro Volta, as well as the Tomba di Volta (tomb of Volta) in Camnago Volta, a small neoclassic style temple built in 1831 and decorated with statues and relief work. The structure also contains a fine Carrara marble bust carved by Giovan Battista Comolli.

volta's heritage

Tempio Voltiano

RISORGIMENTO COMO

The route starts with a visit to the Garibaldi Museo Storico at Palazzo Olginati, where, as the memorial plaque on the façade says, Garibaldi stayed in 1866. The first two rooms, telling the stories of the years 1848-49 and of 1859, emphasize, with the many and varied exhibits, the active role that the patriots of Como played in the fight to liberate Como from the Austrians and the unification of Italy.

In the hall that looks at the years 1848-49 there is a coat of arms upon which stands the Austrian eagle. This came from the old Town Hall in via Cinque Giornate. Among the various items of memorabilia are the iron plates used to shelter from the assault at the barracks of San Francesco and fragments of an Austrian flag of Como from the "Prohaska Regiment", taken by the people of Como from the Austrian drummer who was held prisoner after the Five Days of Como. The 1859 room takes us back to the famous battle of San Fermo of May 27 1859.

Leaving the museum, along Via Balestra, you come to Viale Battisti bordered by the southern city wall, in front of which is the modern Court building and the former church of San Francesco, which is now Spazio Ratti, and which is all that is left of the Franciscan convent that the Austrians used as barracks.

In the mid-nineteenth century there was, along this section of the city walls, a great open space that the Austrian soldiers used for their drills and it was also here that they surrendered and finally handed over their flag to the Como patriots.

At the end of the avenue you come to Piazza Vittoria in which stands an imposing statue of Garibaldi, sculpted by Vincenzo Vela, inaugurated in 1889 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the liberation.

The tour ends at the Pinacoteca, or art gallery, where a painting by Francesco Capiaghi is exhibited, with the wording "After the surrender, Como March 22, 1848": the painting depicts the surrender of the Austrian garrison in Piazza Vittoria after the Five Days in March 1848. The painter was himself an eyewitness to the event, and recalled with it on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

risorgimento como

Francesco Capiaghi, "Dopo la resa, Como 22 marzo 1848"

RATIONALISM

The itinerary starts from Pinacoteca Civica, the municipal art gallery, where you can learn of the work of Como's futurist Antonio Sant'Elia and see the works of the city's abstract artists who are closely related to its rationalist culture.

The route continues to Piazza del Popolo, home to Casa del Fascio, a masterpiece of Italian rationalism designed by Giuseppe Terragni in 1932 and completed in 1936. The building is now home to Guardia di Finanza, the tax enforcement force.

Walking along the lakeside you can visit the "rationalist quarter", between Viale Puecher and Viale Sinigaglia. The area was subjected to architectural redevelopment that was important in terms of new materials used, as well as formally and in terms of the building models adopted for the constructions, with a very high priority being given to functionality.

Straight on to Novocomum, a block of flats designed in 1927 by Terragni, with its presentation of walls and glass surfaces. It was dubbed the "transatlantic liner" on account of its shape and size.

The visit continues with Casa Giuliani Frigerio, the last building designed by Terragni between 1939 and 1940, and an admirable example of its kind in its treatment of architectural volumes.

Also part of this district are the sports and leisure facilities made along the lakeside strip: these particularly include the Idroscalo (1930), the Yacht Club (1931), the Canottieri Lario boating club (1931) and the stadium (1927). The route concludes with the Monumento ai Caduti (War Memorial), built in 1933 by brothers Attilio and Giuseppe Terragni who were inspired by a sketch by Sant'Elia. It is a building in the form of a 33-metre high tower, which houses in its shrine a granite monolith bearing the names of the 750 fallen from Como in the World Wars. The staircase within has 140 steps that lead from the crypt to the top terrace from which there are unparalleled views of the city.

Of great importance are also the Asilo Sant'Elia (kindergarten) in Via Alciato, whose design was developed by Giuseppe Terragni in 1935, and the fountain in Piazzale Camerlata designed by Cesare Cattaneo and Mario Radice in 1935, to finally be built only in 1962.

rationalism

Palazzo Terragni - Casa del Fascio

COMO CITY OF SILK

The route starts from the Museo della Seta (silk museum), in Via Castelnuovo, which tells the story of silk production in the city from the late nineteenth to the early decades of the twentieth century. Exhibits include the machines and tools employed and takes a look at the role of the textile sector in the development of the local economy and Como itself.

The origins of silk spinning in Como date back to the sixteenth century, but in the late nineteenth century the textile industry acquired overwhelming importance to become the primary economic resource for the Como area also thanks to the work of Pietro Pinchetti, founder of the textile school at the Setificio silk factory. This is located right next to what is now the museum.

Each room in the museum illustrates a different part of the production process, including through the use of textiles and the progress made in the science of silk manufacture, both in technological and creative terms. In the areas around Como and Milan all the processes involved in the production of silk fabrics were carried out, from the initial idea to its realisation, and the dyeing, the weaving, gravure printing and finishing treatments. There was also a parallel industry of textile machinery and loom manufacture. The city was full of textile mills, whose sites have been largely converted now into residential and commercial sites.

The ideal route goes on to the Museo Studio del Tessuto, the textile museum in Via Cernobbio, about 5 km away. This was created to give the public access to the collection of antique textiles collected by Antonio Ratti and is the result of a long private and professional process of collection, preservation and cataloguing. It eventually became clear that the collection was of public interest and value. The Museum's collection currently has more than 3,300 individual textile exhibits and more than 2,500 samples-books which together illustrate the history of the fabric from the third to the twentieth century.

The silk journey cannot fail to lead to a little shopping and ends with a visit to the historic silk shops located in the city centre, with outlet stores also on the outskirts where the creations of the finest international designers are displayed.

como city of silk

Silk Museum

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT COMO

The locomotive and train of Luisa Aiani Parisi In the gardens by the lake you can find an example of locomotive and, in the playground nearby, a small and colorful stone train for kids by Luisa Aiani Parisi.

Cosima Liszt Cosima Liszt, daughter of Hungarian pianist and composer Franz Liszt and Marie d'Agoult, was born on Christmas Eve 1837 at "Albergo dell'Angelo" in Piazza Cavour. There you can find a commemorative plaque.

The green dragon If someone from Como invites you for a drink at the "green dragon", don't expect to sit in a fashionable café! The green dragon is a fountain in Piazza Cavour, where to get fresh still water from the jaws of a dragon.

The frog The northern door of the Cathedral is called "door of the frog" because of a frog trying to catch a butterfly, sculpted in the beginning of 1400. Touching the frog means good luck.

The ruins of the castle Teatro Sociale, which is the main theater in the city, was built in 1813 on the ruins of "Castello della Torre Rotonda", whose XIII century perimetral walls are still visible along Via Bertinelli, Via Indipendenza and Via Bellini.

The Chimera and the dragons The "door of the dragon" in San Fedele Basilica (oriental side apse) shows a medieval bas-relief where a Chimera biting a dragon gets bitten by another dragon.

The mummy At the Archeological Museum you can find the sarcophagus of Isiuret, priestess of God Amon. This is one of the most famous pieces of the Egyptian collection. The mummy is shown to the visitors once a year.

Dama della Cortesella One of the oldest neighborhood of the city is the area around via Vitani, Via Muralto and Via Olginati that survived demolition. In Via Vitani, Dama della Cortesella peeps out a window.

The cannon shot If you hear a cannon shot while walking around the city, don't panic! The cannon is loaded with blanks and strikes noon. It is situated midway to Brunate.

things you might not know...

The green dragon